

REMARKS

The abstract has been amended to remove certain legal phraseology therein.

Claims 1,5,6,7 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections. Claim 3 and 4 have been cancelled. New claims 16 has been added to better define the invention.

No new matter has been entered by the above amendments.

Claims 1 to 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by edman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,071). Claims 1,5,6,7 have been amended in order to overcome this rejection and to better define the invention. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 1 to 15 in view of the following comments.

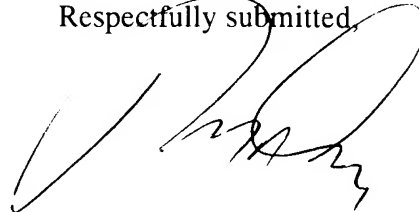
The examiner stated that Edman discloses a precharge to miss (and that the first condition is a miss). The examiner points to column 5 line 45 for this. This line only states "Initially, all match-line segments are precharged." If we look at column 5, line 14 to 37, Edman describes precharging and discharging the matchlines. However column 5 lines 23 to 25 clearly indicates that if a miss occurs the matchline is discharged. Also, in column 5 line 29 to 30, Edman describes the matchline remaining HIGH if no miss match occurs. Column 5 line 27 indicates that a miss causes the subsequent segments to be set to low (a miss). Furthermore in the second embodiment column 5 line 66 to column 6 line 3, Edman indicates that the subsequent segments are not discharged if there is a mismatch. This saves power in that the lines are not discharged even if there is a miss. Column 6 lines 4 to 11 indicate that the third embodiment uses the same scheme as the first. Also column 6 lines 29 to 30 says " there is a discharge of the segment only if there is a mismatch in the evaluation." It is clear that Edman is describing a precharge to hit operation. Nowhere does he teach or suggest that a precharge to miss is possible or desirable as defined in the currently amended claims.

Moreover, original Claims 11 to 15 should be allowable over Edman given that they recite a precharge to miss condition.

In view of the above the Applicant believes that new claims 1-16 are now allowable.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ralph A. Dowell', is written over the typed name and registration number.

Attorney for Applicant

Ralph A. Dowell

Registration No. 26,868

June ³⁰~~24~~, 2003

DOWELL & DOWELL PC
STE 309
1215 JEFF DAVIS HWY
ARLINGTON VA 22202